

## APPENDIX II

A

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS  
FOR  
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDSSpecies: Varied Thrush ; Ixoreus naevius  
(Vernacular name) (Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students -- those studying occurrences 50 years from now -- must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Dates (s) ① Dec. 16 4:25 P.M. 4:29 P.M.  
② Dec. 18 Time Bird Seen: 12:00 noon to 12:30 P.M.

Locality : 150 ft. N of Cole River at 29 Rd.; T15, R1E, Sec. 30 NENE (Ute PM); 39°0' Lat,  
Grand Junction, Mesa, Colorado 108°30' Long.  
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: 7x35 binoc.

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: Nikon FM w/ 70-250X Macro

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ♂ Plumage: ?

Light conditions: ① overcast, ② sunny bright

Distance from bird, and how measured: 40 feet, less than a tall cottonwood height

Describe the bird's overall behavior: ① perched in top of cottonwood with feathers lofted, flew to 6-ft. stub and was promptly displaced by a slightly larger robin male, flew to another cottonwood then flew out of sight; ② flew up from ground to mid canopy of cottonwood occasionally changing position on limb, flew down to ground and moved along undergrowth and on the grassy ground.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:  
Fremont cottonwood/salt cedar - Russian olive in narrow and short 500' x 900' river riparia

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

Mark Janes, 860 Sharp Circle, Delta, CO 81416  
Victor Zerbe, 1118 Red Mtn. Dr., Glenwood Springs, CO 81601



APPENDIX II Continued

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough). Describe what you actually saw in the field.

It looked like a dusky-vented robin in flight, yet upon alighting it showed a light vent, but not broad white like a robin's. Robin-size (bit smaller) and shape, except on second day I noticed tail was <sup>relatively</sup> shorter, but not short-more like the other thrushes. Bill was clearly more slender than a robin's. Colors were blue-black on the dorsal side and rich orange (burnt not iridescent) on the ventral side. The orange supercillium that began above the eye and went posteriorly was ~~thicker~~ <sup>thinner</sup> than any varied thrush photo or painting I've seen. Breast band of blue-black was bold as was mask. Wings were mixed orange and dark. Wing line in ~~James~~ <sup>photo seen</sup>. Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

On second observation, I twice believed I faintly heard the bird give its whistled-hum note... Like it was toying with the idea of singing.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Robin (imm.); breast ~~had~~ <sup>bars</sup> clean lined not speckled or mottled and wing had clear orange bars and feather edgings (secondaries) + highlight  
 Bullock oriole; bill didn't taper as oriole's, no white in wing, the blue-black breast band <sup>no orange in tail, no white wing patch.</sup>  
 Black-headed grosbeak; right colored orange, bill far too slender, no white on wing dorsal side

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I lived in western Oregon and N. Idaho for four + 1/2 years as a birder

This report was written from notes made during \_\_\_\_\_ after ☒ observation;  
 from memory \_\_\_\_\_.

\*Enclosed is Audubon Christmas Count documentation  
 bird first seen on Dec. 16 "

Name (print) : Ron Lambeth

Mailing address: 3202 D 1/4 Rd, Clifton, CO 81520

Signature: Ron Lambeth

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee  
 c/o Curator--Zoological Collections  
 Denver Museum of Natural History  
 City Park  
 Denver, CO 80205



**SUPPORTING DETAILS: UNCOMMON OR RARE SPECIES AND/OR SPECIES IN HIGH NUMBERS**

CBC NAME: Grand Junction COMPILER: Tim Armatrong CBC DATE: Dec. 16, 1994

OBSERVER WRITING THIS ACCOUNT & DATE: Ron Lambeth Dec. 16, 1994

44-84-49

(4:25 PM)

Date of observation: Dec. 16, 1994 Time: 16:25 Weather: cool, windy Sky Cover: slate gray overcast

Duration of observation: 4 minutes Bird/Sun Orientation: light to observer's back and side

Exact Location: 1.0 ft. N of Cole River at the junction of the river and 29 Road, Grand Jct., Colorado, T15, R1E, Sec. 30 NENE Ute PM; 39°00'-108°30' Lat/Long

Habitat: Cottonwood/Russian olive

Observers & Optical Equipment: 7X35 binoculars - Ron Lambeth  
7X35 - John Hamer, 10X40 - Kathy Cunningham

PLEASE INCLUDE ALL NECESSARY AND IMPORTANT DETAILS OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION, AS SEEN IN THE FIELD. REMEMBER THAT AN ACCOMPANYING SKETCH OR PHOTOGRAPH IS AN EXCELLENT MEANS OF FURTHER DOCUMENTATION. BE THOROUGH AND PRECISE WHEREVER POSSIBLE.

SPECIES: Varied Thrush NUMBER, AGE, SEX: one, adult, male

Distance from bird(s): 40 feet Relative size of bird: robin-sized

HEAD & NECK (Describe forehead, crown, auricular, malar region, median line etc.): dark (near black) & orange forehead, crown, auricular region, malar region in the orange that went from chin to breast belt.

EYE & LORES (Describe supercilium, ring, stripe, color etc.): orange supercilium began above the eye and extended far down the neck and it appeared a bit wider than any field guide I have.

UPPER & LOWER MANDIBLES: more slender than robins LEGS & FEET: looked gray

UPPERPARTS (Describe nape, back, rump, upper tail coverts etc.): nape and back dark gray, hardly different from crown but lighter lower, wing seemed same.

UNDERPARTS (Describe throat, belly, side, flanks, crissum etc.): throat, belly and sides orange, flanks to crissum lighter (scallops or gray not seen as in all but Master Guide to Birding), a shoulder to shoulder breast belt as dark as mask in face or crown

RECTRICES (Describe inner, middle, outer tail feathers; color pattern; shape etc.): tail robin's tail length and shape, no highlights noted, just looked gray.

WING (Describe color, length, shape, linings, bars, coverts, leading and trailing edges etc): gray "background" with two bright wing bars (one seeming to come off breast on wing), 2 duller orange marks on primaries, faint light streaks in secondaries. In flight and viewed from below a translucent-like wing stripe like a big skin flashed.

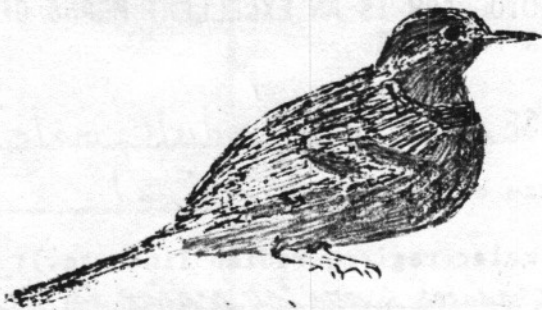
VOCALIZATION: none

BEHAVIOR: perched in top of cottonwood, feathers fluffed for warmth; flew to 6-foot stub and was promptly displaced by a slightly larger robin male. Flew to another cottonwood, then perched due to observer's flight out of sight into other cottonwoods. It looked like a dusky-winged robin in flight.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: an especially brightly colored bird, in the obscured sunlight the grays looked blacker and the orange looked deeper than would have been the case in strong light. Drawing on back side. I gave a vocalized whistle - and varied thrush imitation; it turned its head once and then refused further acknowledgment of this note from home.

**The Audubon Christmas Bird Count**

■ = orange to red-orange, not iridescent  
■ = black to gray



not a Madagascarine Ground-roller  
but an Ixoreus naevius

- (a) superciliary line was thicker than shown
- (b) the bird was not always as plump-appearing as shown  
not small headed
- (c) bill was surprisingly slender and sharp-pointed.



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Dates (s): 17, 18 Dec. 1984 Time Bird Seen: 2:40 to 3:05 pm  
3:45 to 4:15 pm on 17<sup>th</sup>  
4:00 to 4:30 pm on 18<sup>th</sup>

Locality: End of 29 Rd off of D Rd. near Clifton, Colo.  
Mesa County.

Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Nikon 9x30

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: Minolta 35 mm

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ♂ Plumage: ad.

Light conditions: Poor flat light, heavy overcast on 17 Dec; Sunny on 18 Dec.

Distance from bird, and how measured: From 25'-100' (estimated)

Describe the bird's overall behavior: With a flock of ~10 Robins, but I also saw it alone. Perched high on exposed branches of cottonwoods when first seen but also lower down, near trunk; also in small growth & tangles. It fed by plucking Russian olives from a tree while on the wing.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:  
Riparian - lowland. Big cottonwoods; sandy brushy borders; Russian olives & thickets; Along Gunnison Colorado River.

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

Vic Zerbi; Ron Lambeth

Also walked along branches; walked along fallen log on ground. Flown to tangled dead wood caught on undercut bank of the river.



# APPENDIX II Continued

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List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Fairly long dark bill, 9" long size & similarity to an Am. Robin narrows bird down to a thrush. Only Varied Thrush has a black breast band & orange eye-line. Townsend's Solitaire has similar underwing appearance & orange patches in wing but different in nearly every other way.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I saw a ♂ Varied Thrush in Central California in Feb 1983.

This report was written from notes made during X after        observation;  
from memory       .

Name (print) : MARK JANOS

Mailing address: 860 Shupe C.  
Delta, Colo 81416

Signature: Mark Janos

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee  
c/o Curator--Zoological Collections  
Denver Museum of Natural History  
City Park  
Denver, CO 80205

I didn't find this bird originally & take no credit for it - but in case no one else sends in a report - I will. I have much better photos but don't want to send them - ~~As~~ I'm therefore sorry for the quality of the one enclosed but it should do the trick even if it won't win awards.